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The Royal Review: 2013-2014

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The Royal Review

W O R D S F R O M M O L L O Y ' S E N G L I S H D E P A R T M E N T

From "The Mission Statement of the Humanities Division":

"Committed to promoting academic excellence and a lifelong enthusiasm for learning and responsible citizenship, the Division of Humanities engages students in discussion of the seminal ideas enduring values characterizing the disciplines within its domain." At the same time courses concentrate on "preparing students for success and leadership in the modern world by developing such skills as critical thinking, written and oral communication."

MEET AND EAT: MOLLOY'S 23RD ANNUAL ALUMNI SUPPER!!!

On Friday, September 20, 2013, The *Royal* Molloy English Department held its 23rd annual Alumni Supper; with forty-nine people attending, the welcoming Department effectively raised an impressive and record donation of \$2440! Funds were raised to support the Sister Mary Verity Scholarship, an English Department award named in honor of a long-time faculty member. Held in the Reception Room of Kellenberg Hall, the supper gave attendees a chance to catch up, enjoy each other's company and share Molloy English Department memories.

Dr. Robert Kinpoitner, host of the event, began announcements by informing the crowd that he has "always ordered nice weather" for this occasion. . . This— and other stories about suppers past—aroused a chuckle or evoked a memory from his audience. One year, the supper just dodged a hurricane; once, the caterer forgot plates— "but we survived," assured Dr. Kinpoitner. In 2001, the celebration was held a mere three days after 9/11— Dr. Kinpoitner remembered that the supper went on because President Bush had given the "A-OK!" to continue with scheduled events.



One high point of the occasion was the introduction of two scholarship winners: Jennifer Finney (who won the Lillian Emmerich Joseph Memorial Scholarship) and Cathryn Maloney (who won the Catherine Brajuka Memorial Scholarship). Both received a hearty round of applause from their parents, faculty, and the alums they will soon join.

Dinner was excellent (I especially enjoyed the delicious cheesecake!); conversation was interesting. The only thing lacking was younger alumni; I sat with two recent grads, though the scarcity of those who graduated within the last

few years did not go unnoticed— however, I believe this can be easily fixed! After all, *all* English Majors are welcome to attend. The supper would provide an ample opportunity to make connections, or to simply catch up with your friends (And, I cannot stress this enough, there is that promise of cheesecake . . .). I digress. The Alumni Supper is definitely worth attending. The next Alumni Supper will be held on September 19, 2014. See you next time! By Christine Oliva '14

Molloy's 23rd Annual Alumni Supper

Film Festival
The Great Gatsby
Poetry Events

Father Catania
Remembered

Faculty Features

Alumni Updates

Writer's Track

Lambda Iota Tau

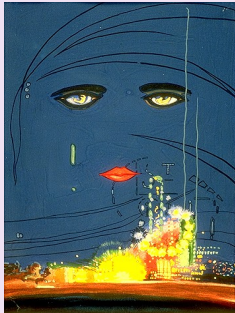
Faculty publication



This semester's Film Festival pleased all Leonardo DiCaprio

fans; in fact, *The Great Gatsby* (one of this summer's box office hits) satisfies both film and literature lovers alike.

The Film Festival certainly is



"Can't repeat the past?... Why of course you can!"

... or something close to it.

This spring, Molloy paid tribute to F. Scott Fitzgerald's renowned novel *The Great Gatsby* and revisited the iconic Roaring Twenties!

The Great Gatsby party was hosted by the English Department. Mocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served at the event, which featured students

a fun way to pass the time.

Films are shown in the Hays theater (Wilbur), and students sit down at tables drowning in snacks; if you're interested in popcorn, soda—at times even home-baked cookies—and, of course, an engrossing movie, this is the place for you!

Last semester, the theme was "Whimsicality; students enjoyed the films *Moonrise Kingdom* and *The*

World's End, starring Simon Pegg (You may be familiar with Pegg from the movie *Hot Fuss*.)

The popular and Oscar-winning *Gatsby* filled the theater, just as *American Hustle* drew an impressive crowd this Spring semester. The films showed the not so innocent side of Long Island life.

The Film Festival is sponsored by the English Department and arranged by Dr. Deidre Pribram of the Communications Department, who brings a background in film studies to the task.



PARTY AT GATSBY'S

reading highlighted selections from the novel, a jazz performance by Molloy's Jazz Band, as well as a presentation by Dr. Paul Van Wie on the history on Long Island in the 20's. Decorations were provided by the Art Department to add a little more glitz and glamour!

The Gatsby party is the

second event in a new English Department tradition. During the Spring '13 semester, Molloy held a very fitting tea party in celebration of the 200 years since the publication of Jane Austen's beloved *Pride and Prejudice*.

The Gatsby occasion was held on April 15th in the Anselma Room.

ART THROUGH POETRY

For those who enjoy poetry, Molloy has many opportunities to help enrich your cultural palettes! In the Reception Room, on Sunday, March 23rd, local poets read from an anthology of works entitled *Paumanok, Interwoven*. Through a unique form of magic, po-

ets and photographers took the audience on a 365-day journey of evocative pairings of poem and picture. Poet and Photographer Kathy Donnelly edited this work. There will also be an event on Sunday, May 4th— 3:30, same place! This gathering will feature poets George Guida and

Doreen D. Spungin. Guida is the author of five books, two being books of poetry. Spungin writes a poem for *Brave Hearts*— the newsletter of Long Island's St. Francis Hospital— each month. All events are open to the public, no reservations necessary; to tempt you even further— refreshments are offered to those who attend.



"There's such artistry—and with only 26 letters!" Barbara Novack, Molloy's Writer in Residence and host of the poetry events.

REMEMBERING FATHER CATANIA



The following is an excerpt from Dr. Robert Kinpoitner's address to the Molloy College community during a memorial service to honor Fr. Tom Catania on the anniversary of his death on April 29, 2013.

"The Holy Spirit works in wondrous ways. In the 1980's while teaching full-time in Molloy's English Department, I also adjuncted at Cathedral College in Douglaston, where Father Tom Catania was my chairman. Father Tom's specialty was Renaissance literature, and John Donne was the subject of his

dissertation. In late September 1981, Professor Marjorie Cerow was teaching Renaissance English literature at Molloy College when she was forced to take a medical leave. Father Tom stepped in to complete her course, his particular expertise, and begin his adjunct work at Molloy, where I was chairman of English. Then in 1991, Molloy granted Tom full-time professorial status and, two years later, tenure.

And so came years of faculty leadership, graduation addresses, poetic homilies, challenging classes, and eulogies for faculty whom the Lord called home. Through the documents he crafted, the meetings he led, the administration he worked with, the faculty he treasured, the students he educated and counseled, Father Tom showed his deep love for Molloy. He indeed helped us to grow. In one way, physically. Each September, he

returned from his Nantucket sojourn with bags of Sweet Sensations, candies that brought smiles to his English colleagues (but never cavities). He also fed our minds with the eloquence of Shakespeare, the daring drama of Dante, and the power of T.S. Eliot. Most importantly, he fed our souls with inspired readings of scripture and his faith and hope in the Lord's love and mercy.

Now, no more past tense. Tom is with us now, even as we praise and pray for him. Surely he is praying for us, praying for the Molloy he so loved. He is a gift to us always, an inspiration, a touching memory. The Holy Spirit brought Father Tom to Molloy. We thank the Lord."

Student Christine Oliva recalls, "Father Catania was wonderful. You could just tell that he was a brilliant man by the way he spoke, and I retained many of his lessons. He had a distinct sense of humor. I used to look for cases taught by Father; I knew I would enjoy them."

FACULTY FEATURES

Welcoming Mark James

Mark James, Ph.D., joined the Royal English Department as an assistant professor in the fall. Dr. James grew up in Lansing, Michigan, received his B.A. at the University of Southern California, his M.A. at the University of Hawaii, and his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. He says he was fortunate to take a range of humanities courses along the way with emphasis, of course, on English. His experience includes work as an actor in soap operas, as a writer for an advertising agency, as Visiting Instructor at the University of West Florida, and as a Fulbright Scholar with the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars in Horlivka, Ukraine, where he taught American Studies. He brings to Molloy's English Department a background in American culture



and an interest in African American literature. Although Dr. James misses the people he met in the Ukraine and has been watching anxiously the recent developments there, he is delighted to be teaching at Molloy. He says he is not "the sage on the stage," but wants to encourage his students to think about what they read. The College and its English Department are delighted to count him among the faculty.



Re-Meeting Sister Alice Byrnes, O.P.

Sister Alice joined the English Department this past September, but she is a familiar face to faculty and to many of Molloy's students. Sister received her Doctor of Arts degree in English from St. John's University. She is the author of *The Child: An Archetypal Symbol in Literature for Children and Adults* published in 1995 and "A Jungian Perspective on the Enduring Appeal of Peter Rabbit" published in 2002. A member of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Sister worked in elementary schools as a teacher at St. Martin of Tours in Amityville and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Roosevelt and as a principal at St. Ignatius Loyola in Hicksville. She also taught high school English at Dominican Commercial High School. She joined Molloy's faculty in 1985 as an adjunct in the English Department and became full-time in 1992, dividing her time between teaching communication and English courses. She was appointed chairperson of the Communication Department in 1996, a position she held for eight years. In 2007, the Dominican Sisters elected Sister Alice Byrnes to serve on their leadership team. During her six-year term, while overseeing the ministries of the Sisters, she "kept her finger in the pie" at Molloy by team teaching a core course in preaching. In the Fall of 2013, Sister Alice returned to teaching full-time at Molloy, just in time to fill a vacancy in the English Department, where she focuses on her interest in children's literature in addition to other English, communication, and core courses. Sister Alice enjoys teaching and interacting with students. She is delighted when her students make connections to other subjects and to apply their learning to real life.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Pat Shand, class of 2009, is doing what he loves to do best—creating scripts for comic books! Graduating as an English Major/ Communications Minor, Mr. Shand is writing away for Zenescope entertainment, where he is currently working on *Robyn Hood*. "It was my first miniseries," comments Pat. "It was originally scheduled for five issues, and now we've had seventeen, and in August it's becoming an ongoing series, so that's pretty cool."

Pat thoroughly enjoys going to conventions and meeting the artists that he's worked with, as well as artists and writers that he respects in the industry. "The fact that people cosplay as characters that I write is pretty cool too."

For those interested, *Robyn Hood* is about a modern girl that gets sucked into a fantasy world. To quote Pat, "it's almost like Veronica Mars meets Game of Thrones." She becomes a hero to people in a high fantasy land, but she's "a very modern, take-no-crap kind of character" that doesn't at all jibe with the customs of these people. "It's an epic story about what the act of revenge does to people, the pain of growing up, and how we cope with loss told through the lens of a gender-swapped Robin Hood," says the writer himself.

Pat was discovered by networking—"simple" as that. "I was a big fan of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel, and I loved what IDW was doing with their Angel license. Those comics were great, and I wrote about them on the internet all the time—Reviews, forums, etc. I reached out to the writers, artists, and editors."

One day, Pat was chatting with Chris Ryall, officer and editor-in-chief of IDW Publishing at New York Comic Con. Ryall told Pat that they were putting out one final collection of new Angel. "I thought about it, and then I asked if I could pitch him a short story. He, amazingly, said yes."



"I pitched and I got in the book. It's still kind of crazy to believe that's how it happened. After that, I used the book as a stepping stone to show myself to other companies. I eventually started doing a lot of work at Zenescope Entertainment, and they liked it enough that they eventually asked me to go exclusive with them and, later, to become editor."

Erica Krilov was one of the English Department's familiar faces and-- like the ones preceding her-- she is a deeply missed Alum.

Erica graduated in 2011 with a degree in English (as well as Studio Art); her talents are certainly being put to use in the work place!

To elaborate— she is currently a Technical Writer at Seescan and Freelance Writer at Highrank Websites, Inc. Her job involves



writing instruction manuals for new products, writing press releases (for in-house and trade publications), copy-editing written material from other members of the communications and marketing teams, and occasionally taking photos for manuals and product DVDs. She also

manages the product DVDs and makes sure all information on them is up to date.

"It's kind of funny" she muses, "because when I was first exploring options to pursue with my English degree I kind of felt like I would rather do *anything* but become a technical writer. I once wrote a short story for one of Barbara Novack's classes about a character who was supposed to be very dry and boring....so I made her write instruction manuals for a living."

The job has proved everything but boring, and the company itself "is really amazing."

When Erica moved to San Diego in July, she "locked herself in her new apartment for two days and did nothing but send out cover letters and resumes."

In less than a week, she had multiple call backs and interviews—can you imagine being able to *pick* between jobs?

Although she has moved, Erica emphasizes how much she had adored her old job in New York; for a time, she managed a reptile specialty shop in West Islip.

The environment and people around her were wonderful; she says, "It was like having a really awesome, loving and quirky extended family. But it was also frustrating, because as engaging, dynamic and different as it was, it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life An English Degree is very flexible, but I struggled with finding a job relevant to my specific interests in NY.

"This is not to say that The Royal English Department doesn't do a ton for its students - of course they do," ends Erica on a high note.

"There are so many resources available there! I'm very grateful to everyone in the department for helping me get where I am."

"I just hate the stereotypes about English majors - that we will regret our choice, that we have no job options, that we'll never make any money - and I spend a lot of time thinking about ways to address these stereotypes which I believe are largely wrong."

Save the date!

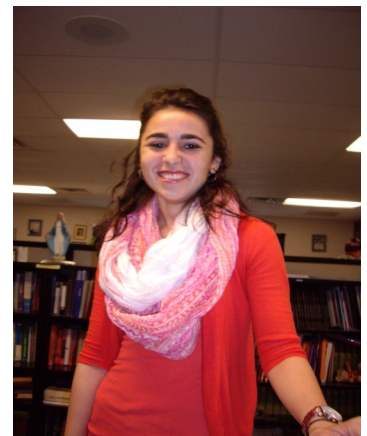
Annual Alumni Supper

September 19, 2014

Jillian DiBlasi graduated in May 2012 with a B.A. in English and two minors in Communications and Women's Studies. As the Internship Coordinator at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, Jillian helps obtain internships, creates connections with employers, conducts cover letter and resume reviews, writes the career services monthly newsletter, and manages all of their social media classes. Jillian is also one of the

instructors for Career Development 101 (CD101), where she teaches students about job search strategies, writing a cover letter and resume, on the job business etiquette, internships, Vaughn Career Connect and LinkedIn—"just to name a few topics," she says. "I work with students on a daily basis, assisting them in their career endeavors through attending networking events such as The Wings Club, which gives the students

the opportunity to meet with individuals in their industry." While she is certainly keeping busy, Jillian loves her job! She has also earned her Master of Science in Education (MSEd) as an Education Administrator from Baruch College!



Author! Author!

Kudos to Dr. Jeffry Massey of the English Department and to Dr. Brian Cogan of Communications on their new book, *Everything I Ever Needed to Know About _____ * I Learned from Monty Python*. Publisher's Weekly's enthusiastic review was typical: "Monty Python fans will applaud the efforts of fellow fans Cogan and Massey who introduce the surreal comedy group to the uninitiated by exploring the historical, political, literary, artistic, and even religious contexts for many of the troupe's sketches." For more information on the book, visit <http://us.macmillan.com/everythingieverneededtoknowaboutilearnedfrommontypython/BrianCogan>

TAKING HER LOVE OF LANGUAGE ON THE ROAD

English Alum **Katelyn Boyle '11** is currently an Assistant Kindergarten teacher at Deutsche Schule Kobe / European School, located in Kobe, Japan. She teaches children 2-5 years old from all over the world: Germany, France, China, India, Korea, the Philippines, and of course Japan. "I love my students," says Katelyn, "They don't always speak the same language, but play together happily-- if adults were as open-minded, we would have world peace."



Asked about her love of Japan and its culture, Katelyn replies that she cannot remember a time when she was not looking forward to spending time in Japan. She studied Japanese (along with English, of course) while at Molloy and traveled to Japan on a global learning trip in 2009.

LAMBDA IOTA TAU

The Gamma Pi Chapter of Lambda Iota Tau, International Honor Society for Students of Literature, welcomed eight inductees on Sunday, April 6, in a ceremony attended by family and friends. To be members of Lambda, students must be juniors or seniors in the top 35% of their class, with at least a B average in 18 credits of literature, and present a critical paper to be discussed at a chapter meeting.

Faculty advisor Dr. Jeffry Massey reported that all those honored had participated in regular meetings throughout the semester and had successfully met all requirements. Dr. Robert Kinpoitner was on hand to congratulate the Lambda inductees.

. Congratulations to all our new Honor Society members: Amanda Ammirati, Ashley Geyer, Kathleen Killman, Christine Oliva, Marilena Rocco, Roger Smith, Alexa Sussman, and Amanda Whitney.



INSIDE MOLLOY'S NEW WRITER'S TRACK

In September, Molloy will add a new option for English majors; this extension will focus on digital writing for the 21st century! The Molloy College English Department's Writing Concentration is a fifty-four-credit track within the English major that retains the goals of the original English major, but stresses written communication in the digital age. Students in the Writing Concentration will think critically and express their thoughts proficiently; will study and analyze literary models; will master written language and communicate their

thoughts clearly, concisely, and creatively; will learn about opportunities for and requirements of the written word in the digital age; and will create a program-long electronic portfolio of their work.

Built on a solid foundation of current and historic literature, the program opens students to a wide and deep experience in crafting the written word for contemporary needs and current circumstances, in fields including publishing, public relations, government, business, and



education. The program includes six literature courses and seven writing courses, the standard introductory courses, an internship, and a specialized capstone seminar.



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Editor, Kathleen Conway, D.A.

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Lambda Iota Tau members discuss a student paper at a recent meeting.